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POOR QUALITY REPRODUCTION
"UNAVOIDABLE"
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
OF DET. U.S.A. 1

Land Upper Austria Sub Detachment
APO 060 00000 U.S. ARMY

5177

9 March 1950
Linz Field Office (ci)
28/2b 4/1/64

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR IN VIENNA:

SUBJECT: VdU (Verteidigung der Unabhängigkeit) - Split in Ranks
RE: Progress Report No. 1

1. Reference is made to LID, this Sub Detachment, Case No. X/17527, Subject as above, dated 23 February 1950, wherein it was reported that a group of residual VdU functionaries was apparently attempting to gain control of the VdU. Reference LID further reported that the VdU Landeschef in Upper Austria, Guido Antl, "had dismissed several VdU functionaries in the VdU" and had at a later date resigned his post position in the VdU. Pursuant to verbal instructions from the LID, this Branch, this Agent contacted Informant 6064 to obtain details of the meeting, which basic LID reported, would be held in Vienna on 21 February 1950.

2. On 21 February 1950 this Agent interviewed Informant 6064 concerning the meeting of the VdU functionaries held in Vienna on 21 February 1950, and to obtain information on further developments in the situation as existing in the VdU. Source stated in substance as follows:

3. Following the meeting of VdU functionaries held in Linz, Upper Austria, on 20 February 1950 most of the information concerning results of the meeting was made available to the Austrian press. All Austrian newsmen published variations of this information with the exception of the Communist "Neue Zeit". The latter allegedly received orders from Vienna to publish nothing concerning the situation that now exists in the VdU. The Communists apparently are withholding comment concerning the situation in force that the revolutionary movement in the VdU may grow in strength and perhaps eventually destroy it. In the event the VdU is not destroyed and continues to grow and become stronger, the Communists will probably use the "neo-nazi tendencies" theme as propaganda in the Communist press and the Socialist Element will submit a proposal to the civilian council that the VdU be

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HCIG, - March 1950, Linz Field Office (CI), Subject: VdU
(Verbund der Unabhängigen) - Split in ranks.

prohibited in these grounds. Bundesobmann Dr. Harbert WEILAND, Dr. Viktor REINHOLD and HERTMANN expected this development but were unable to stop it.

b. A general meeting of the Federal Committee of the VdU leaders was held in Vienna on 21 February 1950 to discuss the present situation in the VdU. During this meeting HERTMANN stated that although he resigned his function in the VdU on 21 February 1950, in his opinion and according to the statutes of the VdU, he is still Landesobmann of the VdU in Upper Austria as the meeting held in Wels, Upper Austria on 20 February 1950 was not a bonafide meeting and therefore decisions made in the meeting were not legal. HERTMANN's statements were accepted by the Committee and it agreed that the decisions made during the meeting held in Wels were not legal. Consequently HERTMANN persuaded the Committee to uphold his previous action in disbanding Alois PÖHL, Otto JÖRIG, Oswald SEITZER, (from) ERHART and (fclu) BERNHARD from the VdU. The Committee upheld his action in this matter and these men were officially dismissed from the organization. The Committee also decided that until HERTMANN again took over his position as Landesobmann of the VdU in Upper Austria or a new Landesobmann was nominated, Nationalrat Hans WEILAND would vacate the position and HERTMANN would temporarily assume the Landesobmann duties. HERTMANN also has executive power in the VdU over all of Austria.

c. On 22 February 1950 WEILAND arrived in Linz, Upper Austria, to assume the duties conferred upon him by the Committee and also to attempt to place HERTMANN back in his position as Landesobmann. HERTMANN discovered that the radical group in Linz, led by JÖRIG, had had several meetings since learning of the Committee's decision and obviously was not in favor of these decisions. WEILAND also discovered that it was impossible to gain place for HERTMANN in the position of VdU Landesobmann in Upper Austria as the majority of the VdU members were decidedly against such a move although HERTMANN has built up the VdU in Upper Austria until it became the strongest of the VdU. He further said that he is not radical enough to make the VdU strong and powerful. WEILAND was afraid to confront JÖRIG, one of the other radical (fclu), JÖRIG, HERTMANN and (fclu) ERHART, all allegedly former high ranking functionaries of the Nazi party (Gauleiter) who is, according to WEILAND, a complete nonentity in the VdU, are capable of exerting a strong influence over HERTMANN and reinforce the claim of JÖRIG and co. to the VdU. In this setting of the radical group, even though WEILAND initially began the radical movement in Upper Austria, he now fears that the Landesobmann of the VdU, the Nationalrat, will consider it better that JÖRIG would become the VdU Landesobmann for his own personal benefit.

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